

ILLINOIS POWER

500 SOUTH 27TH STREET, P.O. BOX 511, DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62525-1805

September 1990

Dear Champaign-Urbana Resident:

We want to give you this progress report on what we've found out so far from work we're doing at the former coal gas manufacturing plant at 5th and Hill Streets.

Based on results of tests conducted in the area, we conclude there is no current health risk to Champaign-Urbana residents from this location. All testing is done in cooperation with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

A study completed in 1986 indicated there were cinders, weathered coal tar and building debris at the 5th Street property, which was the location of an Illinois Power Company coal gas manufacturing plant from the late 1800's through the 1950's.

That information led to another study that began in February of this year and is now completed. That study shows there is coal tar and oil and diesel fuel in the soil and groundwater under the property from just below the surface to as deep as 30 feet in some places. Next to the property, these residues lie 10 feet or more below the surface. They appear to extend primarily to the north under the active railroad tracks and secondarily, to the west and east. There does not appear to have been movement to the south. (Please refer to the map in the enclosed fact sheet.)

Tests of Champaign's water supply, which comes from underground wells (the closest of which are backup wells located approximately three-fourths of a mile to the northeast) show no evidence of contamination from coal tar.

Some of the residues detected in the soil contain chemicals that are harmful if people breathe, swallow or get large amounts on their skin over a period of time. But current test results indicate the location of these compounds at the site do not now present a health risk. Further testing is planned and we will continue to monitor the site closely and keep you updated.

The enclosed fact sheet provides more information about the study and what we've found. We invite you to attend a public meeting where Illinois Power Co. staff and representatives from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Department of Public Health will discuss the conditions at the site and answer any questions you may have.

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 18
Douglass Center Annex,
804 N. Fifth Street, Champaign

If you have questions in the meantime, you may contact Gretchen Monti, our community relations consultant for this project. Her toll free number is 1-800-232-3108.

Sincerely,



Natalie E. Locke

Environmental Specialist & Project Manager